



THE COUNTY OF KAUAI

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

News Release

For Immediate Release: July 23, 2020

KAUAI POLICE DEPARTMENT
TODD G. RAYBUCK, CHIEF
Tel (808) 241-1600
Fax (808) 241-1604

KPD's Sexual Assault Response Team helps expand resources for victims

LĪHU'E — The Kaua'i Police Department's Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) partnered with Hawai'i's Office of the Attorney General to make it easier for victims across all Islands to receive help.

Committee members of the Hawai'i Sexual Assault Response Team (HSART) have been working diligently to launch a new website that provides additional information and resources to victims of sexual assault and rape cases.

The website includes a history of HSART and helps answer frequently asked questions, as well as presents a video to educate the community about how the program works and what kind of support is available.

"We believe our victims when they disclose to us that a sexual assault occurred. Our approach is victim-centered, meaning that we provide as many opportunities as possible, like this new website, for them to get back the power and control they lost when they were assaulted," said Jennifer Antony, one of KPD's forensic nurses who serves an integral part of HSART. "Having a website full of resources to answer questions is another way we can assist victims on their path to recovery and help them learn how to navigate the criminal justice system with ease on their own terms."

When a victim contacts KPD to report a crime, either by calling 911 or dispatch at 241-1711, Kaua'i's SART program (K-SART) is immediately activated, allowing law enforcement and nurses to work closely together in order to provide the best possible care for the patient.



Vital to this teamwork is the partnership that KPD has with forensic nurses, including Antony, who are also part of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. This program is another helpful resource and provides a number of ways for a survivor to feel safer, including allowing them to be treated in a private exam room at KPD's Līhu'e Headquarters. This gives the patient not only the ability to be directly in touch with the detectives and nurses who work as a specially trained team for these incidents, it provides victims with the kind of privacy and confidentiality that they might not otherwise receive in a hospital setting.

"As a forensic nurse, I'm one of the first responders to interact with the victim. Because we have such a solid support system in place, with communication channels open between all team members, we are able to efficiently guide victims and offer them the kind of compassion and reassurance they need right away," said Antony. "I feel the support as well, and I'm honored to be a part of this team. I wouldn't be able to do my part without the support from KPD, as well as the Kaua'i and state SART teams."

KPD also acknowledges and recognizes its members and partnership agencies that comprise K-SART, including the YWCA, KPD's dedicated SANE nurses, KPD's Investigative Services Bureau detectives and the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

"We would also like to acknowledge the great work and partnership that the Department of the Attorney General has had with KPD in an effort to bring awareness, resources and assistance to sexual assault survivors and their families," said Assistant Chief Bryson Ponce. "We will continue our victim-centered approach and best practices to ensure the highest level of public service to our residents and visitors to Kaua'i."

Victims are encouraged to call 911 to report a sexual assault crime so that the SART system and SANE program is activated right away.

Visit <https://ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/home/hawaii-sexual-assault-response-and-training-hsart-program/> to peruse the new website, watch the video and for further information.

###